

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the status of the claims to that indicated by the following:

Claims 1-4 (canceled)

5. (new) A method for changing a particle thickness size distribution of flakes of material, said flakes of material being formed by a process comprising the steps of:
- feeding a stream of molten material in a downwards direction into a rotating cup or disc;
  - allowing the stream of molten material to pass over an edge of the cup or the disc for forcing the stream of molten material into a gap between a pair of plates surrounding the cup or the disc; and,
  - maintaining movement of the stream of molten material in an angular direction via a flow of air passing through the pair of plates and either side of the stream of molten material for pulling the stream of molten material, so that the stream of molten material is, and is kept, in a flattened state and, further, for pulling the stream of molten material so that, as solidification of the stream of molten material occurs, a sheet of solidified material is formed that brakes into said flakes of material,
- said method for changing the particle thickness size distribution of said flakes of material so formed, comprising the step of:
- varying a distance between the cup, or the disc, and an entrance to the gap between the pair of plates until a desired particle thickness size distribution of said flakes

of material is obtained.

6. (new) The method for changing a particle thickness size distribution of flakes of material according to Claim 5, wherein said distance between the cup, or the disc, and the entrance to the gap between the pair of plates is variable by up to 1,500% from a minimum separation of the pair of plates.

7. (new) The method for changing a particle thickness size distribution of flakes of material according to Claim 5, wherein the particle thickness size distribution achievable by varying said distance between the cup, or the disc, and the pair of plates is in a range of from 10% to 95%.

8. (new) The method for changing a particle thickness size distribution of flakes of material according to Claim 5, wherein said distance between the cup, or the disc, and the pair of plates results in the particle thickness size distribution being in a range of 700 to 900 nanometers when said distance is set at approximately 100 units.

9. (new) The method for changing a particle thickness size distribution of flakes of material according to Claim 5, wherein said distance between the cup, or the disc, and the pair of plates results in the particle thickness size distribution being in a range of 700 to 1,300 nanometers when said distance is set at approximately 500 units.